

ReCreation Land

One of American Electric Power's best known symbols of environmental stewardship is the company's 60,000-acre reclamation region known as "ReCreation Land". Since the mid-1940s, this area and several others have been surface-mined for coal. The area has been reclaimed through the planting of more than 60 million trees. Although surface-mining continues, AEP's ReCreation Land features more than 600 lakes and ponds and more than 350 campsites – all available for public use at no charge. Because our environmental stewardship covers a lot of territory, we also offer for free public use Conesville Coal Lands in Coschocton and Muskingum Counties, Avondale Wildlife Area in Muskingum County, Poston Wildlife Area in Athens County and Gavin Wildlife Area in Gallia and Meigs Counties. For more information about these areas, go to www.aep.com/environment/recland/index.html

THE BUCKEYE TRAIL

The Buckeye Trail is the first and only long distance hiking trail located entirely within the state of Ohio. The statewide trail runs through over 40 of Ohio's 88 counties and connects the four corners of the state with a continuous loop of over 1,200 miles of hiking trail. The Buckeye Trail follows old canal towpaths, abandoned railroad right-of-ways, rivers, lake shores and farmlands. It passes through forests, state and local parks, small communities and urban areas. Trail riding with horses or mountain bikes is prohibited on the Buckeye Trail. Section maps and other information are available from the Buckeye Trail Association, P.O. Box 254, Worthington, Ohio 43085. Public use of the Buckeye Trail is made possible through the permission and cooperation of many government agencies and private land owners, including American Electric Power. Please note that camping is permitted only within designated campgrounds and on a first-come, first-served basis.

EQUINE/HORSE USE

An Equine Trail Area has been established in partnership with the Morgan County Chapter of The Ohio Horsemen's Council. Forty miles of trails have been developed, and a parking lot has been established at the trail head. Camping with horses is permitted in the designated equine camping area. In addition to the equine trail areas, horseback riding is permitted on main fishing roads or trails. Trail riding is permitted only during the daylight hours. The areas will be open for use based on weather and road conditions. No off trail use is permitted. Please use this area safely and responsibly so that AEP can continue to enhance and utilize the area for equine use.

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

Nine miles of trails have been set aside for mountain bikers to enjoy. This area was developed in conjunction with Central Ohio Mountain Bikers and other mountain biking enthusiasts. While exploring the scenic trail, one might observe natural hardwood forests, reclaimed mine lands, lakes, ponds, high walls, and wildlife. In addition to following general ReCreation rules, users must wear helmets and maintain control of their bikes at all times. Mountain bikers should yield the trail and never scare wildlife. Planning ahead for safety purposes is advisable. Mountain bikers should be aware that hunting is also allowed in this area. **Please use common sense and caution during all hunting seasons.**

RULES AND REGULATIONS

These rules and regulations cover **ONLY** Ohio Power Company's and Columbus Southern Power Company's Recreation Lands; **it does not cover any other AEP lands. Please observe the following rules and regulations while on landowner's property. Failure to be aware of the rules is no excuse. Violation of rules may result in loss of privileges to use AEP Recreation Areas and/or arrest. Regular patrols are conducted by the Recreation Areas Manager, the Morgan County Sheriff's Department and the Ohio Division of Wildlife.**

1. The **lifetime** permit must be carried at all times.
 - A Family Permit covers husband, wife and their legal children/grandchildren under the age of 18; all persons under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent/grandparent or legal guardian who has a permit. Individuals over the age of 18 need their own permit. A permit may be obtained at the McConnelsville American Electric Power Office, local convenience stores, or online at <http://www.aep.com/environmental/recreation/recland/permit.aspx>.
 - An Organization Permit covers groups, clubs or organizations for a one-time use of landowner's property for a specified event. This permit must be obtained through the McConnelsville American Electric Power Office and does not cover personal use.
2. Respect the rights and signs of the landowner:
 - All areas designated as restricted on the Recreation Lands Map are closed to the public.
 - Entry into areas posted because of active mining operations is prohibited under the Federal Mine, Safety and Health Act of 1969.
 - Obey speed limit signs. Note: Some access roads may be closed due to inclement weather. Gates will be open when damage to roads is minimal.
 - Do not trespass upon posted land.
 - Sections of ReCreation Land are under agricultural lease and used for purposes such as cattle and livestock grazing, hay production, crops, etc. Please respect these lease areas and do not damage fences, gates, or crossings. Do not disturb livestock or crops.
3. Camping:
 - Permitted only at Ohio Power Company's ReCreation Land and only in designated campgrounds. Some campgrounds may be closed during the winter.
 - Camping units (tent, trailer, etc.) shall not be left unoccupied overnight. The use of generators is prohibited before 7:00 AM and after 11:00 PM.
 - Camping duration in any one campground (i.e. Campground D or C, etc.) at any one time is limited to a maximum of three weeks.
 - All RV camping vehicles must have legal license plates.
 - Camping with horses is permitted at the Equine Area only.
4. All areas designated as **restricted** on the Recreation Lands Map are closed to the public.
5. Wading, bathing, swimming and scuba diving are prohibited.
6. Motorized vehicles:
 - All motorized vehicles must conform to State of Ohio Licensing and Registration Laws.
 - Snowmobiles, trail bikes, three- and four- wheelers, dune buggies and all-terrain vehicles are prohibited. **No off road use (e.g. mud running) is permitted.**
7. Watercraft: All watercraft must comply with Ohio Division of Watercraft regulations. The use of boat motors over 9.9 horsepower is prohibited.
8. The use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
9. Hunting, trapping and fishing:
 - Valid Ohio Fishing, Hunting or Trapping Licenses and deer and turkey permits are required for those activities.
 - Groundhog hunting is prohibited.
 - The use or shooting of firearms or any hunting implement inside the boundaries of the designated parksites and campgrounds is prohibited.
 - Target shooting or practice is prohibited within all AEP Recreation Areas.
 - Beaver trapping on American Electric Power's lands is controlled and requires a special Beaver Trapping Permit in addition to this user's permit. This can be obtained through the McConnelsville American Electric Power Office. (740) 962-1205.
 - Fishing with floats, jugs and trot lines is prohibited.
10. Rappelling, rock climbing and hang gliding are prohibited.
11. Firewood is not supplied by American Electric Power. No cutting or damaging of live trees or shrubs permitted. Dead wood on the ground may be used for firewood within ReCreation Land boundaries.
12. All pets must be caged or on a leash. Do not tie to trees or shrubs.
13. Litter or trash: The improper disposal of litter or trash is prohibited; collection of aluminum cans from trash barrels is prohibited.
14. Offensive language and excessive noise is prohibited. Quiet time begins at 11:00 P.M.
15. The use or possession of fireworks is prohibited.
16. In addition to the Equine Trail Areas, horseback riding is permitted on main fishing roads or trails. No off trail use is permitted.
17. Mountain Bike Trail Area Rules: Helmets required; ride on open trails only; leave no trace; control your bicycle; always yield the trail; never scare animals; plan ahead. **Mountain bikers should be aware that hunting is also allowed in this area. Please use caution during all hunting seasons.**
18. Dog training is permitted all year only in the posted units; otherwise it is unlawful on public hunting area during May 1st through August 31st. Dog training areas may also be used for field trials and other recreational dog activities; however, field trials must be scheduled through the Land Management office in McConnelsville, Ohio.
19. No person shall dig, harvest, or otherwise collect wild ginseng or yellow root from its natural habitat. Ginseng and yellow root collection is prohibited.

*****Miners' Memorial Park and some camping areas will be closed December through April. Wood Grove Campground "H" and Maple Grove Campground "G" will be open year-round.